Contents

7. LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT AND PLANNING POLICY

7.1. Introduction

7.1.1. This chapter provides an overview of the legislative and policy context that is relevant to the Proposed Development.

7.1.2. Section 7.2 details the legislative and decision-making framework set out in the Planning Act 2008 ('2008 Act') , including the primacy of the National Policy Statements ('NPS') and Marine Policy Statements ('MPS'). Section 7.3 provides an overview of the NPS and MPS of most relevance to the Proposed Development.

7.1.3. Section 7.4 sets out recent UK Government energy and climate change policy which establishes objectives for decarbonising the power and industrial sectors and the legally binding commitment to achieve 'Net Zero' in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, with the Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan setting out the need for the development of low-carbon flexibility technologies, including hydrogen to power, alongside other technologies, by 2030..

7.1.4. The National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') (Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) (2024) and local planning policies considered to be of most relevance to the Proposed Development are set out in section 7.5. The Proposed Development Site lies within the administrative area of North Lincolnshire Council ('NLC') and section 7.6 identifies the key policies within the NLC development plan.

7.2. Legislative and Decision-making Framework

7.2.1. Elements of the Proposed Development fall within the definition of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under Section 14(1)(a), notably the generating station, which will have a generating capacity greater than 50MW. As such, a Development Consent Order ('DCO') is required to authorise this part of the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act.

7.2.2. Section 115 of the 2008 Act also states that a DCO can include consent for 'associated development', that is, development that is not part of, but is associated with the NSIP for which development consent is sought. This may be development that supports the construction or operation of the NSIP, which helps to address the impacts of the NSIP or is of a type normally

brought forward with the particular type of NSIP (here the generating station). The proposed gas (hydrogen and natural gas), water and electricity connections would support the operation of the Proposed Development and are considered to be associated development for the purposes of Section 115 of the 2008 Act.

7.2.3. Under the 2008 Act, the policy framework for examining and determining applications for a DCO is provided by NPS. Section 5 of the 2008 Act allows the Secretary of State ('SoS') to designate NPS setting out national policy in relation to the types of NSIP listed at Section 14 of the 2008 Act.

7.2.4. The NPS are the primary policy used by the SoS to examine and determine applications for NSIPs. Section 104 of the 2008 Act requires that applications for NSIPs be determined in accordance with any NPS which has effect in relation to development of the description to which the application relates, and the appropriate marine policy documents (if any), unless this would:

- lead to the UK being in breach of its international obligations;
- be in breach of any statutory duty that applies to the SoS;
- be unlawful;
- result in the adverse impacts of the development outweighing the benefits; or
- be contrary to requirements about how decisions are to be taken.

7.2.5. In January 2024, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ('DESNZ') designated the revised NPS relating to nationally significant energy infrastructure (DESNZ, 2024b). The NPS that have direct effect under Section 104 of the 2008 Act for the Proposed Development are:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) ('EN-1'); and
- National Policy Statement for Natural Gas Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN-2) ('EN-2').

7.2.6. In addition, the National Policy Statement for Natural Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4) ('EN-4') may be of relevance to the determination of the natural gas pipeline connection component, which has some characteristics of a NSIP pipeline but is under the threshold for a NSIP pipeline. Furthermore, the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) ('EN-5') may be of relevance to the determination of the electricity connection to the existing 400kV National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Substation, which has some characteristics of a NSIP electricity line but is below the relevant threshold.

7.2.7. Three draft revised NPSs for energy infrastructure (EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5) were published by the Government for consultation in April 2025. As yet, no date has been set for the designation of the updated energy NPSs.

7.2.8. While the current suite of NPSs for energy infrastructure remain relevant Government policy and have effect for the purposes of the 2008 Act, the Applicant considers that draft updates to NPSs are a matter that is important and relevant to the SoS's decision-making on the Application. The following draft revised NPS is considered to be of relevance to the Proposed Development:

- Draft: Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (Draft EN-1)(DESNZ, 2025).

7.2.9. Whilst the Proposed Development does not affect the wider marine environment, and involves only temporary, and no permanent works in the tidal River Trent, the Site does includes land within the marine area (the tidal River Trent). Accordingly, the appropriate marine policy documents are:

- the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) (HM Government, Northern Ireland Executive, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly Government, 2011); and
- the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2014).

7.2.10. In making decisions on NSIPs, the 2008 Act (Section 104) also states that the SoS must have regard to any local impact report submitted by a relevant local authority, any relevant matters prescribed in relation to the Proposed Development and any other matters that the SoS thinks are both 'important and relevant'. In the case of the Proposed Development, other matters that are important and relevant may include recent and relevant UK Government energy and climate change policy including national infrastructure plans and assessments:

- National Infrastructure Plan (HM Treasury, 2014);
- the Clean Growth Strategy (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), 2017);
- The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order (2019);
- The Future of Hydrogen – Seizing today's opportunities (International Energy Agency, 2019);
- Net Zero – Opportunities for the Power Sector (National Infrastructure Commission, 2020);
- Energy White Paper (EWP) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and BEIS, 2020);

- UK Hydrogen Strategy (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2021);
- Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and BEIS, 2021);
- Decarbonisation Readiness Consultation (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023a);
- Powering Up Britain (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023b);
- Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (HM Government, 2024); and
- Hydrogen to Power Consultation on the Need, and Design, for a Hydrogen to Power Market Intervention (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2024).

7.2.11. All of these documents set out important Government objectives for decarbonising the power and industrial sectors, in addition to the Government's target (enshrined in law) of achieving Net Zero GHG emissions by 2050.

7.2.12. Other matters that the SoS thinks are both important and relevant may include the policies within the NPPF (MHCLG, 2024), Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (MHCLG and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2024) and local development plan documents (DPDs).

7.3. National Planning Statements (NPS) and Marine Policy Statements (MPS)

7.3.1. This section summarises the relevant NPSs and MPSs, as set out at paragraphs 7.2.5 and 7.2.9, above.

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)

7.3.2. Part 2 of EN-1 sets out 'Government policy on energy and energy infrastructure development'. It confirms the following:

- the Government's commitment to reducing GHG emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels (under Carbon Budget 6 for the period 2033-2037);
- the need to effect a transition to a low carbon economy so as to reduce GHG emissions; and
- the importance of maintaining secure and reliable energy supplies as older fossil fuel generating plant closes as a result of the European Union

Emissions Trading System and the UK moves toward a low carbon economy.

7.3.3. Part 3 sets out the need for nationally significant energy infrastructure. Paragraph 3.1.1 states that the "*government sees a need for significant amounts of new large-scale energy infrastructure to meet its energy objectives*" and at paragraph 3.2.3 confirms that the "*government does not consider it appropriate for planning policy to set limits on different technologies but planning policy can be used to support the government's ambitions in energy policy and other policy areas*".

7.3.4. Paragraph 3.2.4 confirms that it will take a large number of consented projects to deliver an affordable electricity system for consumers by driving competition between developers and between technology type. It is relevant to the Proposed Development which is an alternative to the consented Keadby CCS Power Station as discussed in **ES Volume I Chapters 4:** The Proposed Development and **ES Volume I Chapter 6:** Consideration of Alternatives (**Application Document Ref. 6.2**). Paragraph 3.2.4 states:

"It is not the government's intention in presenting any of the figures or targets in this NPS to propose limits on any new infrastructure that can be consented in accordance with the energy NPSs. A large number of consented projects can help deliver an affordable electricity system, by driving competition and reducing costs within and amongst different technology and infrastructure types. Consenting new projects also enables projects utilising more advanced technology and greater efficiency to come forward. The delivery of an affordable energy system does not always mean picking the least cost technologies. A diversity of supply can aid in ensuring affordability for the system overall and relative costs can change over time, particularly for new and emerging technologies. It is not the role of the planning system to compare the costs of individual developments or technology types."

7.3.5. Therefore, in seeking consent for a power station project driven by an alternative and emerging technology type, the Proposed Development is assisting in the diversification of the energy supply chain and contributing towards the ultimate affordability of energy.

7.3.6. Section 3.3 sets out why the Government believes that there is an urgent need for new nationally significant electricity infrastructure, including:

- the need for different types of electricity infrastructure – there are several different types of electricity infrastructure that are needed to deliver our energy objectives. Additional generating plants, electricity storage,

interconnectors and electricity networks all have a role, but none of them will enable us to meet these objectives in isolation;

- alternatives to new electricity infrastructure – the Government has considered alternatives to the need for new large-scale electricity infrastructure and concluded that these would be limited to reducing total demand for electricity through efficiency measures or through greater use of low carbon hydrogen in decarbonising the economy; reducing maximum demand through demand side response; and increasing the contribution of decentralised and smaller-scale electricity infrastructure;
- delivering affordable decarbonisation – The Net Zero Strategy sets out the Government's ambition for increasing the deployment of low carbon energy infrastructure consistent with delivering our carbon budgets and the 2050 net zero target. This made clear the commitment that the cost of the transition to net zero should be fair and affordable. Given the changing nature of the energy landscape, we need a diverse mix of electricity infrastructure to come forward, so that we can deliver a secure, reliable, affordable, and net zero consistent system during the transition to 2050 for a wide range of demand, decarbonisation, and technology scenarios; and
- the role of combustion power stations – Low carbon hydrogen could be capable of replicating the role of natural gas in the electricity system, including providing both firm, flexible capacity in the future and a decarbonisation route for unabated combustion power plants. The British Energy Security Strategy sets out the ambition for up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030, subject to affordability and value for money, at least half of which will come from electrolytic hydrogen, working with industry to develop a strong and enduring UK hydrogen economy. The Impact Assessment for CB6 shows an illustrative range for low carbon hydrogen of 85- 125TWh in 2035 and 250-460TWh in 2050.

7.3.7. In relation to hydrogen infrastructure, paragraph 2.3.7 states that low carbon hydrogen will likely play an increasingly significant role in meeting energy demand by 2050, requiring the integration of new low carbon hydrogen into the network.

7.3.8. Paragraph 3.3.49 states that "*low carbon hydrogen could be capable of replicating the role of natural gas in the electricity system, including providing both firm, flexible capacity in the future and a decarbonisation route for unabated combustion power plants. The British Energy Security Strategy sets out our ambition for up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030, subject to affordability and value for money, at least half of*

which will come from electrolytic hydrogen, working with industry to develop a strong and enduring UK hydrogen economy[...]".

7.3.9. Paragraph 3.4.12 states "*There is an urgent need for all types of low carbon hydrogen infrastructure to allow hydrogen to play its role in the transition to net zero*" and paragraph 3.4.13 states "*the government is committed to developing low carbon hydrogen, which will be critical for meeting the UK's legally binding commitment to achieve net zero by 2050, with the potential to help decarbonise vital UK industry sectors and provide flexible deployment across heat, power and transport.*"

7.3.10. Part 4 of EN-1 sets out a number of 'assessment principles' that must be taken into account by applicants and the Secretary of State in preparing and determining applications for nationally significant energy infrastructure. General points include (paragraphs 4.1.3 and 4.1.4) the requirement for the Secretary of State, given the level and urgency of need for the infrastructure covered by the energy NPS, to start with a presumption in favour of granting consent for applications for energy NSIP. This presumption applies unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in the relevant NPS clearly indicate that consent should be refused or any of the considerations referred to in Section 104 of the 2008 Act (noted above) apply.

7.3.11. Paragraph 4.1.5 goes on to state that in considering any proposed development, in particular when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the Secretary of State should take into account:

- its potential benefits, including its contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation, a reduction of geographical disparities, environmental enhancements, and any long-term or wider benefits; and its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy

7.3.12. Paragraph 4.1.6 continues by stating that within this context the Secretary of State should take into account environmental, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts, at national, regional and local levels.

7.3.13. Part 4.2 of EN-1 outlines the critical national priority (CNP) for nationally significant low carbon infrastructure as a factor in decision making by the Secretary of State.

7.3.14. Paragraph 4.2.4 states that the Government has concluded that there is a CNP for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure, with paragraphs 4.2.2 and 4.2.5 highlighting the importance of hydrogen within

this. The latter defines what is meant by low carbon infrastructure with the list of infrastructure including electricity generation that does not include fossil fuel combustion as well as natural gas fired generation which is carbon capture ready.

7.3.15. Paragraph 4.2.7 confirms that the CNP policy applies following the normal consideration of the need case, the impacts of the development and the application of the mitigation hierarchy. It does not create an additional or cumulative need case or weighting. CNP policy is therefore to be weighed against residual impacts that have been identified. Paragraph 4.2.15 and Figure 2 of EN-1 confirm that where non-Habitats Regulations Assessment ('HRA') or non-Marine Conservation Zone ('MCZ') residual impacts remain after mitigation, those residual impacts are unlikely to outweigh the urgent need for CNP infrastructure, and it is unlikely that consent will be refused on the basis of those impacts. The CNP policy indicates a clear presumption in favour of granting consent for CNP infrastructure.

7.3.16. The exception to this presumption in favour of consent is residual impacts, both onshore and offshore, which present an unacceptable risk to, or unacceptable interference with, human health and public safety, defence, irreplaceable habitats or creates an unacceptable risk to the achievement of net zero. Figure 2 of EN-1 goes onto state that:

"*The SoS will consider the particular circumstances of any application, but will take as a starting point for decision making that such infrastructure is to be treated as if it has met any test requiring a clear outweighing of harm, exceptionality, or very special circumstances within EN-1, this NPS of any other planning policy*."

7.3.17. Other assessment principles include environmental effects/considerations; marine considerations; environmental and biodiversity net gain; criteria for 'good design'; consideration of CHP; consideration of CCS; climate change adaptation and resilience; network connection, amongst others.

7.3.18. Part 5 of EN-1 lists a number of 'generic impacts' that relate to most types of energy infrastructure, which both applicants and the Secretary of State should take into account when preparing and considering applications. These include air quality and emissions; GHG emissions; biodiversity and geological conservation; flood risk; and landscape and visual, amongst others. Paragraphs 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 stress that the list of impacts is not exhaustive, and that applicants should identify the impacts of their projects in the Environmental Statement (ES) in terms of both those covered by the NPS and others that may be relevant. In relation to each of the generic impacts listed within Part 5 of EN-1, guidance is provided on how the applicant should assess these within their application and also the considerations that the Secretary of State should take into account in decision-making.

National Policy Statement for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure (EN-2)

7.3.19. EN-2 covers onshore natural gas-fired electricity generating infrastructure and taken together with the EN-1, it provides the primary policy for decisions by the Secretary of State on applications they receive for nationally significant natural gas electricity generating stations.

7.3.20. EN-2 covers the factors influencing site selection and design, climate change adaptation and resilience, the applicant assessment including factors affecting site selection, technical issues and impacts of the proposed development; mitigation for air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, landscape and visual, noise and vibration, and water quality and resources. EN2 also provides for SoS decision making on the impacts of air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, landscape and visual, noise and vibration.

7.3.21. In addition to the assessment principles and generic impacts covered by EN-1, EN-2 sets out the factors (e.g. those influencing site selection) and 'assessment and technology specific' considerations including relevant environmental matters to be considered in the preparation and assessment of applications for natural gas-fired electricity generating infrastructure but also has relevance to hydrogen gas-fired electricity generating infrastructure.

7.3.22. EN-2 also states (at paragraph 1.1.2): "*The majority of new generating capacity will need to be low carbon. But new unabated natural gas generating capacity will also be needed during the transition to net zero. This will ensure that the system remains reliable and affordable*".

National Policy Statement for Natural Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4)

7.3.23. NPS EN-4 is specifically intended to address natural gas infrastructure and does not have effect for hydrogen infrastructure, but may be relevant to the SoS's decisions on applications for such development, as paragraph 1.6.6 makes clear:

"*The guidance that follows in this NPS has been drafted in respect of, and has effect only in relation to, natural gas infrastructure. It does not have effect for hydrogen infrastructure, but may be part of other matters which the Secretary of State thinks are important and relevant to their decision on applications for hydrogen infrastructure, in which case they would need to take it into account.*"

7.3.24. Hydrogen is recognised in NPS EN-4 as important to the clean energy transition (paragraph 1.1.4):

"Clean hydrogen, and the infrastructure that supports it, will be needed to help transition our energy system to net zero by 2050, with the potential to help decarbonise vital UK industry sectors and provide flexible deployment across heat, power and transport."

7.3.25. EN-4 does not directly influence the necessary assessment of the Proposed Development as the gas supply pipeline falls below the threshold in sections 20 and 21 of the 2008 Act.

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)

7.3.26. EN-5, together with EN-1, provides the primary policy for decisions by the Secretary of State on applications it receives for electricity networks comprising transmission and distribution systems and also above ground electricity lines (set out in Section 1.6 of EN-5).

7.3.27. EN-5 provides additional policy on factors influencing site selection and design; biodiversity and geological conservation; landscape and visual; noise and vibration; Electric and Magnetic Fields; and Sulphur Hexafluoride.

7.3.28. EN-5 does not directly influence the necessary assessment of the Proposed Development owing to the electricity line falling below the threshold in sections 16 of the 2008 Act.

Marine Policy Statement (MPS)

7.3.29. The MPS is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment. It establishes a vision for the marine environment, which is for "*clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas*". The MPS underpins the process of marine planning, which establishes a framework of economic, social, and environmental considerations that will deliver these high level objectives and ensure the sustainable development of the UK marine area.

7.3.30. Relevant high level marine objectives relevant to the Proposed Development include:

- achieving a sustainable marine economy:
  - infrastructure is in place to support and promote safe, profitable and efficient marine businesses.
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society:
  - people appreciate the diversity of the marine environment, its seascapes, its natural and cultural heritage and its resources and act responsibly;

  - the use of the marine environment is benefiting society as a whole, contributing to resilient and cohesive communities that can adapt to coastal erosion and flood risk, as well as contributing to physical and mental wellbeing;
  - the coast, seas, oceans and their resources are safe to use;
  - the marine environment plays an important role in mitigating climate change; and
  - there is equitable access for those who want to use and enjoy the coast, seas and their wide range of resources and assets and recognition that for some island and peripheral communities the sea plays a significant role in their community.

- living within environmental limits:
  - biodiversity is protected, conserved and where appropriate recovered and loss has been halted.

7.3.31. Chapter 3 of the MPS sets out sectoral issues, such as defence and national security, ports and shipping, and marine aggregates. A recognised sector is energy production and infrastructure development (paragraph 3.3 of the MPS (HM Government, 2011)). It is acknowledged that the UK offshore area is considered to be one of the most promising locations anywhere in the world to permanently store carbon dioxide (paragraph 3.3.31 (HM Government, 2011)).

7.3.32. The East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans ('EIEO') (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2014) establishes the plan led system for the marine area in which the riverine parts of the Proposed Development Site are located.

7.3.33. In section 2, the EIEO sets out the vision and objectives for the East marine plan areas is stated. The vision (page 23 (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2014)) comprises:

> "*By 2034, sustainable, effective and efficient use of the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Areas has been achieved, leading to economic development while protecting and enhancing the marine and coastal environment, offering local communities new jobs, improved health and well-being. As a result of an integrated approach that respects other sectors and interests, the East marine plan areas are providing a significant contribution, particularly through offshore wind energy projects, to the energy generated in the United Kingdom and to targets on climate change*."

7.3.34. Chapter 3 (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2014) comprises the plan policies. Key policies include:

- Policy EC1: "*Proposals that provide economic productivity benefits which are additional to Gross Value Added currently generated by existing activities should be supported*.";
- Policy EC2: "*Proposals that provide additional employment benefits should be supported, particularly where these benefits have the potential to meet employment needs in localities close to the marine plan areas*.";
- Policy SOC3, which requires that proposals that affect the terrestrial or marine character of an area firstly avoid, or then mitigate, or then justify, these effects;
- Policy BIO1, which requires appropriate weight should be attached to biodiversity, using an evidence based approach;
- Policy BIO2, which requires that where appropriate, proposals for development should incorporate biodiversity and geological enhancement; and
- Policy PS3, which requires that proposals firstly avoid, or then mitigate, or then justify, interfering with current and future port and harbour expansion opportunities.

2025 Draft Updates to the Energy NPS

7.3.35. In April 2025, following a review of the NPSs for energy, the Government made draft updates to:

- EN-1: Overarching National Policy Statement for energy (DESNZ, 2025);
- EN-3: National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure (DESNZ, 2025); and
- EN-5: National Policy Statement for electricity networks infrastructure (DESNZ, 2025).

7.3.36. Through these updates the Government seeks to strengthen the process for delivering major new infrastructure in England and Wales and reinforce their ambition to deliver Clean Power by 2030 and net zero. The Government carried out a consultation on these updates which concluded on 29 May 2025.

7.3.37. While the current suite of NPSs for energy remain relevant policy and have effect for NSIP applications for the purposes of the 2008 Act, the draft revised NPSs are potentially capable of being important and relevant considerations in the decision-making process.

7.3.38. Paragraph 2.3.16 of Draft EN-1 states that "*to accelerate deployment of hydrogen to power (H2P), government is implementing a H2P business model (H2P BM) to de-risk investment and mitigate our identified deployment barriers. We will deliver a H2P BM based on a Dispatchable Power Agreement style mechanism*."

7.3.39. Paragraph 2.4.10 of Draft EN-1 states "*From February 2026, new gas plants will need to be built 'decarbonisation ready', demonstrating they are compatible with carbon capture, utilisation and storage or able to convert to hydrogen powered generation*."

7.3.40. The role of hydrogen combustion stations has been strengthened within draft EN-1 paragraph 3.3.50 , which states: "*Hydrogen to power can play a key role in our electricity system by providing low carbon dispatchable generation at a range of scales and a decarbonisation pathway for unabated gas generation. When connected to large-scale hydrogen storage, it can provide low carbon inter-seasonal storage. Our analysis indicates H2P is economic at lower load factors (below 30%), enabling it to be cost effective in a clean power system where flexible load factors are expected to fall as renewable generation increases*".

7.3.41. Paragraph 3.3.51 states: "*Low carbon hydrogen is essential to achieve the government's Clean Energy Superpower and Growth Missions and will be a crucial part of our future energy system*."

7.3.42. Paragraph 3.4.16 states: "*In December 2023 government set out that we see potential strategic and economic value in supporting the blending of up to 20% hydrogen by volume into the GB gas distribution networks in certain circumstances that align with the strategic role of blending. When deciding whether to enable blending in the GB gas distribution networks, the government will consider safety evidence from industry trials and tests, as well as any implications on the economic case. We do not anticipate blending at a commercial scale before 2026-27 at the earliest, due in part to timescales for the necessary measures for implementation."*

7.3.43. Paragraph 4.1.5 has been updated and states in considering any proposed development, in particular when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the Secretary of State should take into account: *"its potential benefits, including its contribution to meeting the need for the Clean Power 2030 Mission and net zero, energy infrastructure, job creation, a reduction of geographical disparities, environmental enhancements, and any long-term or wider benefits*".

7.3.44. Paragraph 4.1.6 states "*the Secretary of State should proportionately take into account environmental social environmental, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts, at national, regional and local levels.*"

7.3.45. Section 4.6 of Draft EN-1 covers 'Environmental and Biodiversity net Gain'. Paragraph 4.6.3 regarding Marine Net Gain ('MNG') has been updated and now states that MNG may be delivered through a fund mechanism and will take a strategic approach to delivering the greatest environmental benefit.

7.3.46. Part 5 of Draft EN-1 'Generic Impacts' has been updated in several places. Additional text in Section 5.15 'Resources and Waste management' requires the Applicant to consider how a project aligns with circular economy objectives. Section 5.16 'Water Quality and Resources' requests that Applicants engage with statutory bodies to identify available water resource and also mitigation if water is not available.

7.4. Other Matters that may be 'Important and Relevant'

7.4.1. In making decisions on applications for NSIPs, Section 104 of the 2008 Act states that the SoS must also have regard to any other matters that they consider to be both 'important and relevant' to their decision. A body of recent energy and climate change law, policy, and guidance is of potential relevance and is described below. Collectively, these provide further support to the urgent need for new energy infrastructure.

7.4.2. Paragraphs 4.1.10 – 4.1.15 of EN-1 provide some clarification on the other matters that the Secretary of State may consider both important and relevant, such as national planning policy and local plan documents. These are discussed below.

National Infrastructure Plan

7.4.3. The National Infrastructure Plan (HM Treasury, 2014) (the 'NIP 14') sets out a vision for the UK's infrastructure, reinforcing the Government's commitment to investing in infrastructure and improving its quality and performance.

7.4.4. Paragraph 8.3 states that "*large-scale investment in gas and low-carbon electricity generation is vital in order to replace ageing energy infrastructure, maintain secure energy supplies and meet legally binding environmental targets. Around £100 billion of investment is estimated to be required in electricity generation and networks by 2020*."

7.4.5. Paragraph 8.5 continues:

"As legacy coal, gas and nuclear power stations come offline, they will increasingly be replaced with a combination of renewable energy, new nuclear power and fossil fuel power stations fitted with Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology. New gas plant is also needed as a vital backup for less flexible renewable generation and to ensure that the system can

meet peak electricity demand. Demand for gas to supply heat to homes and businesses will also remain significant for some time to come."

Clean Growth Strategy

7.4.6. The 'Clean Growth Strategy – Leading the way to a low carbon future' (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2017) ('the CGS') sets out the aims of the Government to deliver increased economic growth while reducing carbon emissions.

7.4.7. The Executive Summary (page 9) confirms that for the UK to achieve its fourth and fifth carbon budgets (2023-27 and 2028-2032) it will be necessary to drive a significant acceleration in the pace of decarbonisation.

7.4.8. Pages 93 - 101 of Chapter 4 cover 'Delivering Clean, Smart, Flexible Power'. The overriding objective is to deliver a reduction in emissions from the power sector. Page 96 states that in order to achieve this it will be necessary to continue to bring down the costs of low carbon generation from renewables.

7.4.9. Page 56 of Chapter 3 and page 151 cover the 'hydrogen pathway'. This pathway sees a key role for low carbon hydrogen in decarbonising the grid. Existing gas infrastructure will be adapting to deliver hydrogen for heating, supporting hydrogen production using natural gas and capturing the emissions with CCUS. Because hydrogen is the main energy source for heating and transport, electricity demand and therefore generation is lower than the other pathways at around 340 TWh (around the same level as today).

7.4.10. Page 82 states that there is a range of low carbon heating technologies with the potential to support the scale of change needed, including decarbonising the gas grid by substituting natural gas with low carbon gases, like hydrogen.

The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order

7.4.11. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 (June 2019) enshrines in law the Government's commitment to achieve 'net zero' in terms of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This is in line with the recommendations of the Committee for Climate Change ('CCC').

7.4.12. The CCC reports to Parliament on the UK's progress to adapt to climate change every two years, as required by the Climate Change Act 2008.

7.4.13. The executive summary to the CCC's 'Progress in reducing emissions' report to parliament from 2024 (page 33) notes that good progress has been made to decarbonise the electricity supply over the first three carbon budgets and

carbon reductions will need to accelerate in most sectors to achieve the emissions reduction over the next three carbon budgets.

The Future of Hydrogen – Seizing today's opportunities

7.4.14. 'The Future of Hydrogen' (International Energy Agency, June 2019) sets out the current status of hydrogen as an energy source; the ways in which hydrogen can help to achieve a clean, secure and affordable energy future; and how to realise its potential. The study, carried out in collaboration with governments, industry and academia, contains recommendations for immediate opportunities and for scaling up hydrogen.

7.4.15. The report identifies that hydrogen can enable renewables to make an even greater contribution and manage their variable output. The report states that the opportunity should be taken now to scale up technologies and bring down costs to allow hydrogen to become widely used. For hydrogen to make a significant contribution to the clean energy transition, it needs to be adopted in sectors in which it is currently absent, including transport and power generation.

7.4.16. Seven key recommendations are set out:

- establish a role for hydrogen in long-term energy strategies (including in the power generation sector);
- stimulate commercial demand for clean hydrogen;
- address investment risks of first-movers;
- support research and development to bring down costs;
- eliminate unnecessary regulatory barriers and harmonise standards;
- engage internationally and track progress; and

focus on four key opportunities to further increase momentum over the next decade: turn existing industrial ports into hubs for lower carbon hydrogen, use existing gas infrastructure to spur new clean hydrogen supplies, support transport fleets, freight and corridors using fuel cell vehicles, and establish shipping routes for international hydrogen trading.

Net Zero – Opportunities for the Power Sector

7.4.17. 'Net Zero - Opportunities for the Power Sector' (National Infrastructure Commission, 2020) states that decarbonising the power sector is integral to achieving the goal of net zero by 2050.

7.4.18. The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) provides impartial advice to the government on infrastructure needs and solutions. Its terms of reference are set by government, and while NIC recommendations do not constitute

government policy, the government is required to formally respond to the recommendations, and they may form the evidence base for future policy.

7.4.19. Core to the NIC recommendations (page 7) is that:

"a highly renewable power system, combined with flexible technologies including hydrogen powered generation, could be substantially cheaper than alternatives that rely heavily on a fleet of nuclear power plants."

"Highly renewable systems are still a low cost option in a net zero world. The analysis once again finds that electricity system costs are broadly flat across a range of different levels of renewable penetrations. If hydrogen is deployed, providing low carbon and flexible generation, it could further reduce the costs of highly renewable systems, by up to 30 per cent in some scenarios modelled here."

7.4.20. This is further supported on page 14:

"Hydrogen, a zero carbon energy carrier, could be used to decarbonise areas of transport, heating, industry and potentially aviation and shipping. The CCC have stated that "By 2050, a new low carbon industry is needed with UK hydrogen production capacity of comparable size to the UK's current fleet of gas-fired power stations.""

7.4.21. The NIC has identified that increasing the proportion of renewables on the system does not materially impact the cost of the system and that "*future system costs may even be lower if action is taken to test the feasibility of deploying hydrogen turbines, an emerging technology for the power sector*" (page 5). This is because hydrogen turbines displace many other non-renewable forms of generation and flexibility, reducing the necessary installed capacity of these technologies, and hence system costs.

7.4.22. Page 18 of the NIC recommendations acknowledges that there will be a mix of technologies in net zero power systems, including unabated thermal (with low running hours) and at least 18 gigawatts (GW) of gas CCS capacity by 2050, generating 23 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity. By 2050 it is expected that this will primarily play a peaking role in the electricity system.

Energy White Paper 2020

7.4.23. The Energy White Paper 2020 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2020) builds on the Ten Point Plan (HM Government, 2020) and the National Infrastructure Strategy (HM Treasury, 2020), providing further clarity on the Prime

Minister's measures and puts in place a strategy for the wider energy system that transforms energy, supports a green recovery, and creates a fair deal for consumers.

7.4.24. Page 12 states that the UK is aiming for 5GW of low-carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

7.4.25. Page 112 recognises that clean hydrogen could potentially provide a way to decarbonise our gas supplies on a much larger scale than reliance on biomethane alone.

Net Zero Strategy 2021

7.4.26. The Net Zero Strategy 2021 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2021) sets out clear policies and proposals for keeping the UK on track for its coming carbon budgets, the Government's ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution, and then sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050.

7.4.27. Many sectors require low carbon energy, including those where electrification is not a viable option, making the supply of cleaner fuels essential to achieving net zero. Building on commitments in the North Sea Transition Deal, the Government aims to significantly reduce emissions from traditional oil and gas fuel supplies, whilst scaling-up the production of low carbon alternatives such as hydrogen and biofuels

7.4.28. The Government is actively taking steps to bring forward low carbon technologies capable of replicating the role of unabated gas in the electricity system, including CCUS-enabled generation, hydrogen-fired generation, BECCS, and flexible storage.

7.4.29. Page 109 supports the development of innovative low carbon hydrogen solutions, supported by the UK Hydrogen Strategy, which further sets out the Government's comprehensive approach to growing a UK hydrogen economy. This indicates that use of low carbon hydrogen enabled by 5 GW of production capacity could deliver total emissions savings of 41 MtCO2 e between 2023 and 2032, the equivalent of the carbon captured by 700 million trees over the same period.

7.4.30. Page 111 states that decarbonising fuel supply and growth of the hydrogen sector will regenerate communities and open up new employment opportunities right around the UK. Based on current estimates, policies and proposals to reduce emissions in fuel supply and growing the hydrogen sector could support up to 10,000 jobs in 2030.

UK Hydrogen Strategy 2021

7.4.31. The UK Hydrogen Strategy (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2021) sets out how the target of 5GW of low-carbon hydrogen production capacity will be achieved by 2030 and how hydrogen will be positioned to help meet the UK's Sixth Carbon Budget and net zero commitments.

7.4.32. The Executive Summary states that hydrogen is one of a handful of new, low carbon solutions that will be critical for the UK's transition to net zero. As part of a deeply decarbonised, deeply renewable energy system, low carbon hydrogen could be a versatile replacement for high-carbon fuels used today – helping to bring down emissions in vital UK industrial sectors and providing flexible energy for power, heat and transport.

7.4.33. It further states that there is almost no low carbon production of hydrogen in the UK or globally today.

7.4.34. Page 7 states that low carbon hydrogen will be critical for meeting the UK's legally binding commitment to achieve net zero by 2050, and Carbon Budget Six in the mid-2030s on the way to this. Hydrogen can support the deep decarbonisation of the UK economy, particularly in 'hard to electrify' UK industrial sectors, and can provide greener, flexible energy across power, heat and transport. Moreover, the UK's geography, geology, infrastructure and expertise make it particularly suited to rapidly developing a low carbon hydrogen economy, with the potential to become a global leader on hydrogen and secure economic opportunities across the UK.

7.4.35. Page 8 states that most hydrogen produced and used in the UK and globally is high carbon, coming from fossil fuels with no carbon capture; only a small fraction can be called low carbon, emphasising the need for low carbon hydrogen electricity generating stations.

Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)

7.4.36. The 'Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener' (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2021) expands on key commitments in the Ten Point Plan, the EWP and sets out the next steps the Government proposes to take to cut emissions, seize green economic opportunities and leverage further private investment in net zero. The strategy sets an indicative delivery pathway for emission reductions to 2037 by sector. It is intended to put the UK on the path for Carbon Budget 6 and ultimately on course for net zero by 2050.

7.4.37. Regarding power, page 19 of the strategy states that the UK will fully decarbonise its power system by 2035 subject to security of supply. It states

that the power system will consist of abundant, cheap renewables, cutting edge new nuclear power stations, underpinned by flexibility including storage, gas with CCUS and hydrogen.

Decarbonisation Readiness Consultation 2023 and Government Response (2024)

7.4.38. The Decarbonisation Readiness Consultation 2023 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023a) provides an update to the 2009 Carbon Capture Readiness (CCR) requirements to ensure all new build combustion power plants have a viable route to decarbonisation; make the requirements more flexible and simpler; provide a clear decarbonisation pathway for combustion power plants and keep pace with the evolving nature of decarbonisation technologies, in particular low carbon hydrogen.

7.4.39. The Executive Summary states that the Government sees low carbon hydrogen as a critical component of their broader strategy to deliver energy security, create economic growth and contribute to the net zero target.

7.4.40. It goes on to confirm that hydrogen will enable the UK to use our domestic energy assets, including gas and renewables, to decarbonise UK industrial sectors, power, heavy transport, and potentially home heating.

7.4.41. It proposes to enable combustion power plants to demonstrate decarbonisation readiness through conversion to hydrogen firing.

7.4.42. Page 20 states that hydrogen to power has the potential to be vital in achieving the decarbonisation targets by providing a large source of firm and flexible low carbon generation that is capable of fast ramping, as more intermittent renewables are integrated.

7.4.43. Section 2.2.1 states that Government analysis shows that having hydrogen available in the power sector could achieve lower emissions at a lower cost than scenarios without hydrogen.

7.4.44. The consultation acknowledges (at Section 7.7) that the technology for 100% hydrogen-fired generating stations may not be available on the market until at least 2030. It also acknowledges that new generating plants capable of firing a blend of natural gas and hydrogen would create the market signals necessary to encourage the development of generation equipment capable of 100% hydrogen firing.

7.4.45. In October 2024 the new Government published its response to the consultation. This reaffirmed the new Government's commitment to decarbonisation of the UK's energy supply:

"Making Britain a Clean Energy Superpower is one of the Prime Minister's five defining missions. There are two parts to this mission: delivering clean power by 2030 and accelerating delivery of net zero. Whilst we move forward at pace to deliver this mission, electricity demand is expected to increase, driven by heating and transport electrification. To meet this demand, renewables must be complemented by generation sources which can deliver power irrespective of calm or dull weather conditions. This includes flexible supply sources that can scale up or down instantaneously to meet peak demand and which, in contrast to short-duration flexibility such as batteries, can run for extended periods of low renewable production."[1]

7.4.46. The Government's response to the consultation confirms that it will not proceed with its proposal to require new build or substantially refurbished combustion power plants which opt to meet decarbonisation readiness requirements through hydrogen conversion to also have to demonstrate capability of burning 100% hydrogen if they are put into operation after 1 January 2030. This was due to concerns that new plants may be prevented from coming forward after the deadline and that market distortions could limit the development of a range of hydrogen combustion units and potentially incentivise plant operators to build smaller, less efficient plants.

7.4.47. Specifically related to hydrogen-fired generating stations, the consultation response confirmed that the Government will introduce the ability for operators to choose which decarbonisation pathway (carbon capture readiness or hydrogen conversion readiness) best suits the plant. A Hydrogen Conversion Readiness assessment will be introduced, covering the following matters:

- A hydrogen space assessment, to test whether sufficient space has been set aside to facilitate future conversion to hydrogen firing;
- A technical feasibility test, to show whether proposals are configured to allow straightforward conversion to hydrogen firing;
- A hydrogen fuel access test, to show whether it will be possible during the lifetime of the plant, to ensure access to a sufficient supply of hydrogen;
- A hydrogen economic feasibility test, to assess whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that it will be economically feasible to convert a combustion generating station to hydrogen and whether hydrogen would be the primary fuel.

[1] Decarbonisation Readiness: Government Response, Executive Summary

Powering Up Britain (March 2023)

7.4.48. On 30 March 2023 the Government published three documents comprising Powering Up Britain (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023b), the 'Energy Security Plan' and 'Net Zero Growth Plan' following the judicial review of the Net Zero Strategy. All three documents provide details of the Government's measures to increase domestic energy production, resilience in the energy supply and achieve net zero.

Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity

7.4.49. On 13 December 2024 the Government published the Clean Power Action plan (HM Government, 2024) to meet its clean power target with clean sources producing at least as much power as Great Britain consumes in total over a typical weather year and at least 95% of Great Britain's generation with a maximum of 5% from unabated gas. The Clean Power Action Plan recognises that a clean power system will include and require low carbon dispatchable power such as gas with CCUS or H2P and other innovative technologies, to reduce unabated gas generation and stabilise capacity.

7.4.50. In relation to hydrogen, the Clean Power Action Plan states that H2P can play a key role in the electricity system at a range of scales and is the primary low carbon technology capable of providing low carbon inter-seasonal storage, whilst providing a decarbonisation pathway for unabated gas. It also states that ensuring the deployment of hydrogen transport and storage infrastructure, alongside supporting H2P plants, will be critical in enabling delivery of H2P whilst also providing the infrastructure to support industrial decarbonisation through hydrogen.

7.5. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

7.5.1. The latest version of the NPPF was published in December 2024 (updated February 2025) (MHCLG, 2024). The policies contained within the NPPF are expanded upon and supported by the 'Planning Practice Guidance' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and MHCLG, 2024).

7.5.2. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied and is a material consideration in planning decisions. Paragraph 5 of the NPPF states that the document does not contain specific policies for NSIP and that applications in relation to NSIP are to be determined in accordance with the decision-making framework set out in the 2008 Act and relevant NPS, as well as any other matters that are considered both important and relevant. However, matters that can be considered to be

both important and relevant to NSIP may include the NPPF and the policies within it.

7.5.3. Paragraph 7 of the NPPF is clear that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and that the policies that are set out in the Framework, taken as a whole, constitute the Government's view of what sustainable development in England means in practice. Paragraph 8 goes on to identify three overarching objectives to achieving sustainable development:

- an economic objective - to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- a social objective - to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
- an environmental objective - to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

7.5.4. Paragraph 161 in Section 14 states that:

7.5.5. "*The planning system should support the transition to net zero by 2050 and take full account of all climate impacts including overheating, water scarcity, storm and flood risks and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure*."

7.5.6. Paragraph 168 states that when determining planning applications for all forms of renewable and low carbon energy developments and their associated infrastructure, there should be no requirement to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and significant weight should be given to the benefits associated with renewable and low carbon energy generation and the proposal's contribution to a net zero future

7.5.7. Sections of the NPPF that are of particular relevance include:

- 2 – Achieving sustainable development;
- 6 – Building a strong, competitive economy;
- 11 – Making effective use of land;
- 12 – Achieving well designed places;
- 14 – Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change;
- 15 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment; and
- 16 – Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

7.6. Local Planning Policy

7.6.1. The Proposed Development Site lies entirely within the administrative area of NLC. The statutory development plan for the area currently comprises the following documents:

- North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy (the Core Strategy) (NLC, 2011) - adopted June 2011;
- North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD (the Allocations DPD) (NLC, 2016) - adopted March 2016; and
- Saved Policies of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (the Local Plan) (Local Development Frameworks Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber, 2007) - adopted May 2003, saved September 2007.

7.6.2. These documents may be 'important and relevant' as defined in the 2008 Act and EN-1.

Core Strategy (2011)

7.6.3. The North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy sets the following Spatial Objectives are considered relevant:

- Spatial Objective 1: An Area Wide Renaissance;
- Spatial Objective 4: Creating Greater Economic Success;
- Spatial Objective 6: Protecting and Enhancing the World Class Environment;
- Spatial Objective 7: Efficient Use and Management of Resources; and
- Spatial Objective 10: Creating A Quality Environment.

7.6.4. The following policies are considered relevant from the Core Strategy:

- CS2 - Delivering More Sustainable Development;
- CS5 - Delivering Quality Design in North Lincolnshire;
- CS11 - Provision and Distribution of Employment Land;
- CS16 - North Lincolnshire's Landscape, Greenspace and Waterscape;
- CS17 – Biodiversity;
- CS18 - Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change;
- CS19 - Flood Risk;
- CS20 - Sustainable Waste Management; and
- CS25 - Promoting Sustainable Transport;

Saved Policies of the Local Plan (2003)

7.6.5. The following saved policies are considered relevant:

- IN10 – Wharves;
- RD1 – Development involving High Quality Agricultural Land;
- RD2 - Development in the Open Countryside;
- T1 – Location of Development;
- T2 – Access to Development;
- T5 - Green Travel Plans;
- T6 - Pedestrian Routes and Footpaths;
- T8 - Cyclists and Development;
- T14 - The North Lincolnshire Strategic Road Network;
- T19 - Car Parking Provision and Standards;
- T23 - Water Freight;
- C1 - Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar Sites;
- LC2 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves;
- LC7 - Landscape Protection;
- LC12 - Protection of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows;
- HE5 – Development affecting Listed Buildings;
- HE9 – Archaeological Evaluation;
- DS1 – General Requirements;
- DS7 - Contaminated Land;
- DS10 - New Hazardous Installations and Pipelines;
- DS11 - Polluting Activities;
- DS12 - Light Pollution;
- DS13 – Groundwater Protection and Land Drainage;
- DS14 - Foul Sewage and Surface Water Drainage;
- DS15 - Water Resources;

- DS16 - Flood Risk; and
- DS17 - Overhead Power Lines and High-Powered Electrical Installations.
- DS21 - Renewable Energy.

7.6.6. To the south of the Proposed Development Site is the Stainforth and Keadby Canal. The lock at the junction of the canal and the River Trent are grade II listed and are designated by North Lincolnshire Council as a heritage asset in their adopted Local Plan. The lock is located approximately 200m to the south of the 'Water Connection Corridor' of the Site.

7.6.7. The River Trent, immediately to the east of the Site is part of the designated RAMSAR, SSSI and SAC for the Humber Estuary.

7.6.8. The Stainforth and Keadby Canal is designated as a Local Wildlife Site.

7.6.9. The Site is predominantly within the open countryside, albeit the proposed 'Water Connection Corridor' is adjacent to Keadby Development Boundary. The 'Potential Discharge Option' partially runs through the Keadby Development Boundary.

Emerging Policy

7.6.10. NLC is preparing a new Local Plan to 2043. Once formally adopted, it will replace the current North Lincolnshire Local Plan, the Core Strategy and the Housing and Employment Land Allocations Development Plan Documents.

7.6.11. In May 2025 NLC carried out an initial engagement and call for sites consultation and published an addendum document at the same time. The document identifies climate change and greenhouse gas reduction as one of the main issues for the new Local Plan. It also recognises that transitioning to low-carbon and renewable energy sources will not only decrease emissions but also enhance fuel security and stimulate economic growth.

7.7. Summary

7.7.1. The NPSs (EN-1 and EN-2) represent the principal policy documents against which applications for this type of NSIP are determined. The Application for the Proposed Development includes a **Planning Statement** (**Application Document Ref, 5.5**) which demonstrates that the Proposed Development confirms with the relevant NPSs.

7.7.2. The Proposed Development will make a timely contribution to the urgen need for new large scale energy generation infrastructure.EN-1 (Part 3) confirms the need for new nationally significant energy infrastructure projects. It

explains why the Government sees a need for significant amounts of new large-scale energy infrastructure to meet its energy objectives and why it considers the need for such infrastructure is urgent. It notes (paragraph 3.1.2) that it will not be possible to develop the necessary amounts of such infrastructure without some significant residual adverse impacts. Paragraphs 3.2.6 to 3.2.8 state that the SoS should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by EN-1 on the basis that the Government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure which is urgent, and that substantial weight should be given to that need.

7.7.3. Notably, The Proposed Development would act as a catalyst for the creation of a 'strong and enduring UK hydrogen economy' (EN-1 paragraph 3.3.49) as it would establish a hydrogen-ready end-user for a future hydrogen supply chain. The creation of a hydrogen economy is critical in meeting the Government's ambition (set out in EN-1) for 10 Gigawatts ('GW') of electricity supply being generated by hydrogen-fired power stations. The Site's location in the Humber Industrial Cluster makes the delivery of hydrogen more likely as there has been significant recent progress on hydrogen production, storage and transport proposals in this region. This will in turn support the Humber Industrial Cluster Plan for decarbonisation of the largest carbon emitting clusters in the UK.

7.7.4. Section 4 and Appendices 4 and5 of the Planning Statement demonstrate the Proposed Development's conformity with relevant 'generic impacts' and 'assessment and technology specific considerations' in the NPSs

7.7.5. While the SoS must decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPSs, the SoS must also have regard to the appropriate marine policy documents (as discussed earlier in this chapter), local impact reports and any other matters that are both important and relevant to their decision such as the Government's energy and climate policy. The conformity with the UK MPS and the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans is confirmed in Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement.

7.7.6. Other important and relevant matters that the SoS can take into account when examining and determining the application for development consent can include the NPPF and local development plan documents. Appendices 6 and 7 of the Planning Statement describes how the Proposed Development confirms with these documents. A detailed assessment of the Proposed Development against the policy framework is set out in the Planning Statement.

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